

*Ascension, Terrebonne, St. James, St. Mary, St. John the Baptist Parishes; Cities of Thibodaux & Houma to Receive Funding*

October 14, 2009

WASHINGTON - Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) today announced that six federal grants totaling \$169,092 have been awarded to support law enforcement efforts in south Louisiana. The grants are funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, which supports initiatives to prevent and control crime based on state and local needs. *Ascension, Terrebonne, St. James, St. Mary, St. John the Baptist Parishes; Cities of Thibodaux & Houma to Receive Funding*

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**"Our law enforcement officers and emergency responders are on the front lines protecting our communities and helping in emergencies and disasters," Rep. Melancon said. "From purchasing new radios and upgrading communication equipment to providing training and safety equipment, these federal grants will allow our officers to reliably and quickly communicate and be prepared during critical moments."**

The following federal grants were announced today:

**- \$51,119 to the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office to upgrade and improve its digital media storage process.**

The grant will fund the expansion of disk storage, a server, software and a digital web viewer. The equipment will enhance the department's ability to secure storage and better its archival management of photographic and video evidence.

**- \$41,905 to the Houma Police Department for equipment to enhance officer safety and increase prosecution rates.**

The Houma Police Department will purchase floatation devices to assist officers during high water situations; ballistic helmets and shields to enhance officers' safety during shooting incidents; night vision equipment to provide officers the ability to see in extreme darkness; and fingerprint kits to assist the district attorney's office in prosecuting cases.

**- \$14,978 to the Thibodaux Police Department for communications equipment.** The city's police department will purchase portable radios, a radio base station and an infrared video and audio surveillance camera for its mobile command unit. The grant will also fund video cameras for the internal affairs and criminal investigations units. The additional equipment will help the department better serve and protect the citizens of Thibodaux and support its efforts to

reduce crime.

- **\$20,784 to the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office to improve training and for equipment.** The grant will provide basic training for officers to learn how to make traffic stops, search buildings and handle an active shooter. The grant provides funds to purchase officer equipment such as training weapons, helmets, neck protectors, ammunition, traffic wands, reflective traffic vests and tasers.

- **\$17,502 to the St. James Parish Sheriff's Office to purchase equipment to protect officers and citizens.** The equipment will improve officer safety and their ability to apprehend criminals.

- **\$22,804 to the St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff's Office to enhance communication systems.** The funds will allow the sheriff's office to upgrade their handheld radios to 700/800 MHz capable, which is the law enforcement frequency set by the Federal Communications Commission. The new radios will allow officers to communicate more effectively within the sheriff's office as well as officers in surrounding departments.

Congressman Melancon voted to fund the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program when he voted in support its annual funding included in the [Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009](#).

He has also been a [strong supporter in Congress](#)

of efforts to improve and streamline communication among local, state and federal emergency disaster personnel.

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